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THE CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSO- CIATION OF AMERICA.

The fourth annual meeting of the CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA was held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, December 27, 28, and 29, 1898.

FIRST SESSION, DECEMBER 27.

On Tuesday evening, December 27, the Association was called to order in the Library Hall of the University of Nebraska by Professor Lawrence Fossler, of the University of Nebraska. The speaker introduced Chancellor George E. MacLean, who delivered an address welcoming the members to the University and to the city of Lincoln. The President of the Central Division, Professor C. Alphonso Smith, responded, and then delivered an address on "The Work of the Modern Language Association of America." [Printed in *Publications*, xiv, 240 f.]

Before adjourning Professor A. H. Edgren invited the members to attend an informal reception tendered them at his home.

SECOND SESSION, DECEMBER 28.

The Second Session was called to order Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock a. m., by President C. Alphonso Smith. The Secretary being absent on account of illness, Dr. F. I.

Carpenter, of the University of Chicago, was chosen Secretary *pro tem*. The report of the Secretary was presented, and on motion was adopted.

Report of the Secretary of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America.

The Secretary begs to submit the printed Proceedings of the previous Annual Meeting, published in Vol. XIII of the *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, pp. XLIII-LIX.

During the past year thirteen new members have been elected :

Miss Mary L. Freeman, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

Miss Jane Hutchins White, High School, Evanston, Ill.

Miss V. D. Jayne, University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill.

Professor William Koren, Mount Pleasant, Ia.

Miss L. R. de Lagneau, Lewis Institute, Chicago, Ill.

Professor G. D. Morris, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Ind.

Professor Julius E. Olson, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

Professor Herman S. Piatt, University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill.

Dr. Karl Pietsch, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Professor J. E. Roessler, Valparaiso, Ind.

Mr. Hugh A. Smith, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

Professor Vernon P. Squires, University of North Dakota, University P. O., N. D.

Professor Guido H. Stempel, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Ind.

The selection of a place of meeting was left to the Executive Committee. As a member of this body the Secretary wishes to present a résumé of the transactions. The Committee had a number of invitations to select from: Vanderbilt University, Tulane University, Leland Stanford University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Illinois. The choice of Charlottesville, Va., as the place for the eastern meeting reduced this number to three; a careful canvas showed a solid South in favor of the Virginia meeting. This, together with the fact that the representatives of the Leland Stanford University, had been exceptionally active in their support of the Association, led to negotiations with the authorities of that institution, and the Pacific railroads. Contrary to expectation, and certainly contrary to the wishes of many members, a desirable agreement with the railroads could not be effected. It may be added—to obviate any misapprehension—that this meeting on the Pacific coast was in every detail feasible, and had an assured success long before the negotiations were finally dropped. The invitations from the State Universities of Illinois and Wisconsin the Committee, after a careful consideration of the

situation, did not feel justified to accept, for the reason that two out of three meetings had been held in northern Illinois. The Committee finally believed to discharge its duties in the most impartial manner, and in accord with the best interests of the Association, by accepting a later invitation extended by the University of Nebraska.

At the last meeting the Secretary was directed to negotiate with Associations of similar character with regard to combined meetings, in order to secure reduced railroad rates. The Secretary has spent considerable effort in obedience to this request, with the result that he has to repeat his statement made when the motion was under discussion: that there are two such organizations, one of them being strictly local, and the other at present suspended. The many problems of our own, involving especially questions of place and time of meeting, our exceptional position as a branch of another Association, the large territory of our operations—to mention only these points—constitute factors with which no other Association has to deal, and which, in the aggregate, threaten to become so burdensome and perplexing that a relief from further, however well-intentioned, legislation seems to be desirable.

Upon the vote of the Central Division the Secretary has addressed the Secretary of the Modern Language Association with regard to a joint meeting in the coming year, and every fourth year thereafter. As a result of this vote the Central Division will have to appoint a Committee to act upon the decision of the Modern Language Association.

The success of the joint meeting of the Language Associations in Philadelphia has encouraged the American Philological Association to arrange preliminaries for another Philological Congress, to be held most probably about Christmas, in the year 1900; the question will be definitely decided before the adjournment of the present meeting. The Secretary awaits special instructions as to the course the Central Division wishes to take in this matter.

The following report of the Treasurer for the year 1898 was then read, and on motion was referred to the Auditing Committee:

Report of the Treasurer of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association for the year 1898:

RECEIPTS.

Thirteen membership fees,	\$39 00
From the Treasurer of the M. L. A.,	27 25
Total receipts for the year,	<u>\$66 25</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Printing of Programmes, Job printing,	\$13 65
Stamps,	13 30
Telegram,	0 30
Paid to the Treasurer of the M. L. A.,	
November 21st,	33 00
December 2nd,	6 00
	<hr/>
Total expenditures for the year,	\$66 25

Respectfully submitted,

H. SCHMIDT-WARTENBERG,
Treasurer.

The President announced the appointment of the following Committees :

(1) To audit the Treasurer's accounts : Professors Albert E. Jack and Lawrence Fossler.

(2) To recommend place for the next meeting : Professors Edward P. Morton, W. H. Carruth, F. A. Blackburn, J. P. Fruit, and Dr. H. M. Belden.

(3) To nominate officers : Professors A. H. Edgren, W. H. Carruth, Charles Bundy Wilson, Dr. P. S. Allen, and Dr. C. W. Eastman.

On motion of Professor W. H. Carruth the Committee on Place of Meeting was instructed to send greetings to the Association in session at the University of Virginia, and to invite them to meet at Indianapolis in joint session the next year.

On behalf of the authorities of Tulane University the chair extended an invitation to the Association to meet in New Orleans next year.

On motion Professors S. W. Cutting and J. S. Nollen, and Miss K. Merrill were appointed a Committee to rearrange the programme of the present meeting to secure a close of its sessions by Thursday noon.

The reading of papers was then taken up.